



IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Leblanc

For: A Pipe or the Like, A Female End Ring, and a Method of Manufacturing such a Pipe or the Like

Serial No.: 10/026,357

Filed: 12/21/2001

Attorney Docket No.: MART0780US

I certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on February 19, 2002.

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Dated: February 19, 2002.

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February 19, 2002

Commissioner for Patents
Washington D.C. 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the claims as shown in Appendixes A (clean form) and B (insertions and deletions visible) before computing the filing fee in the above identified patent application.

REMARKS

The amendments have been made to a specification translated from French for greater consistency with U.S. idiom and practice, and to avoid multiple dependencies in the claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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Appendix A

Claims as Amended February 19, 2002

Retyped In Clean Form